

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Patent Claims

1. (amended) A method for fastening a rivet nut on a workpiece, in which a hole is punched into this workpiece and the rivet nut is introduced into this hole by its section to be riveted, after which the rivet nut is riveted to the workpiece by means of a riveting tool, ~~characterized in that,~~ wherein after the hole (5) has been punched, the workpiece (3) is fed to a first follow-on tool (13) in which the rivet nut (2, 17) is introduced into the hole (5) by its section (14) to be riveted, the rivet nut (2, 17) in the follow-on tool (13) being aligned with a discharge channel (19) which is arranged in the first follow-on tool (13) below the workpiece (3) and whose diameter is at least as large as the maximum diameter of the rivet nut (2, 17), and in that the rivet nut (2, 17) now inserted in the hole (5) is then riveted in a second follow-on tool (21) designed as a riveting tool.

2. (amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the rivet nut (2, 17) in the first follow-on tool (13) is pressed into the hole (5) by the section (14) to be riveted.

3. (amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1 ~~either of claims 1 and 2,~~ characterized in that wherein a bead (8) is stamped on the workpiece (3) at the location of the hole (5) to be produced.

4. (amended) The method as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the stamping operation, as the first operation for fastening the rivet nut (2, 17), is carried out in the same tool as the subsequent hole-punching operation.

5. (amended). A device for fastening a rivet nut on a workpiece, comprising a punching tool for punching a hole into the workpiece and a riveting tool for riveting the rivet nut introduced into the hole, characterized in that the device (1) includes a first follow-on tool (13) which is separate from the punching tool (4) and intended for introducing the rivet nut (2, 17) into the hole (5), the first follow-on tool comprising, below the workpiece (3), a discharge channel (19) which is aligned with the introduced rivet nut (2, 17) and whose diameter is at least as large as the maximum diameter of the rivet nut (2, 17), and in that the riveting tool is a second follow-on tool (21) separate from the punching tool (4) and from the first follow-on tool (13).

6. (amended) The device as claimed in claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the first follow-on tool (13) includes a punch (16) by means of which the riveting tool (2, 17) can be pressed into the hole (5) by the section (14) to be riveted.

7. (amended) The device as claimed in claim 6 ~~either of claims 5 and 6, characterized in that~~ wherein the device (1) includes a stamping tool (6) for stamping a bead (8) at the location of the hole (5) to be produced.

8. (amended) The device as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the stamping tool (6) and the punching tool (4) are arranged jointly in a combination tool.